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HER STURDY OAK

Brief Synopsis

5 Reels!

Samuel Butters, an over-sized, gentle-hearted poet, invested his all in an alfalfa ranch with Belle Bright, a huge, mannish woman, who affects corduroy breeches, puttees and sombreros, as his partner.

Belle, who is known as the Alfalfa Queen, takes full charge of the ranch, while Sam spends his time writing poetry. During an unguarded moment, Sam becomes engaged to Belle and afterwards wonders why.

She exasperates him by mothering him until he makes an excuse to get away. At her suggestion, he goes to Mountain View Inn, a rustic lodge in the redwoods.

Violet White, a pretty, unsophisticated girl, whose ambitious mother desires her to marry Archibald Mellon, an effeminate, dressy person, who lectures on Ibsen, pleads to go away by herself for a rest. She also goes to Mountain View Inn where she meets Samuel and they fall in love with each other. He tells her he is engaged but that his fiancee' doesn't understand him. He decides to break the engagement and takes Violet with him to intercede with Belle to set him free.

Belle is sitting with her feet up on the desk, smoking a cigarette, when they arrive. Sam leaves Violet on the porch and enters alone. Belle is delighted to see him and, much to his disgust, she pulls him down onto her lap, cuddling him like a boy.

When Belle learns Sam's mission, she orders him to fetch

the girl in -- looks her over contemptuously, and, finding them both determined to have each other, she hands Sam back his engagement ring, telling him that he'll be glad to come toddling back for he can't earn a living.

Violet and Sam marry and go to live at the Hillcrest Apartments. Sam's income from the ranch is \$125.00 per month, but he expects to make a fortune from the book of verses he is writing.

Violet's mother notifies her that as she has displeased her by marrying a penniless scribbler instead of the wealthy Mellon, she need expect no help from her.

When at the end of their resources, Belle, whose curiosity is piqued because Sam has not come toddling back as she predicted, decides to pay the couple a call. She finds them without anything in the house to eat and discovers a notice from the bank stating that their account is overdrawn. She is berating Violet for being a Clinging Vine instead of a self-supporting woman when Mrs. White, who has likewise called out of curiosity, overhears these remarks, and lights into Sam for being of no account and not able to earn his salt. Sam puts both women out and comforts Violet.

Violet presents Sam with three bouncing boys, which he names SAM II, SAM III, and SAM IV.

Mrs. White and Belle, unaware of the advent of the triplets, put their heads together to break up the marriage. They incite the susceptible Archibald Mellon, who has just returned from a two year lecture trip, with tales of Violet's unhappy marriage to a brute who beats her, etc., until Mellon, picturing himself a hero, assures them that he will save her.

He calls on Violet, commiserates with her over her unhappy marriage and gallantly proposes that she fly with him. Violet sees

the humor of the situation, gives Sam a knowing look, and tells Archibald to wait until she gets her luggage. She wheels out the baby buggy with the three lusty youngsters in it, while Sam stuffs Archibald's pockets with nursing bottles and tells him to be sure and feed them every four hours, and sterilize the bottles.

Archibald is dumbfounded over the discovery of the triplets, tries to plead that it is all a mistake, and makes a dash for the door. Sam grabs him by the collar and sends him sprawling down the hall.

Much to Sam's astonishment, he receives word from his publisher that his verses are commonplace and unsaleable, which is followed by a notice to vacate the premises on account of unpaid rent, and just when he is expecting his check from the ranch, he gets a wire from Belle notifying him that, owing to improvements on the ranch, his monthly check will be discontinued.

He takes his little family to an abandoned cabin in the sage-clad hills, where they discover the chimney full of marketable honey, and their fortunes change.

About a year later we discover them established on a honey ranch with all their debts paid except a five thousand dollar mortgage on their place which Sam hopes to get extended.

Belle, still bent on harassing Sam, buys the mortgage, which she means to foreclose, and together with the foreman of her ranch, pays Sam a call.

Sam appeals to the foreman to help him get Belle off his neck. The foreman buys Sam's interest in the alfalfa ranch, which enables Sam to take up the mortgage Belle holds.

The discovery of the triplets is a great surprise to Belle, and a change comes over her. The foreman notices this and on the way

THE CLINGING VINE

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home he suggests that what she needs is a family of her own and admits that he would make a wonderful father. Belle eyes him sharply, but shows that she is not averse to the idea.

Mrs. White wires Violet that she is glad she chose Samuel for she married Mellon herself and he ran off with everything she had.

We leave the young couple prosperous and happy. Violet, in a pretty frock, selling honey from an attractive booth by the roadside to motorists passing by -- no longer a Clinging Vine, but joyously self-supporting, while the bees supply Sam with plenty of excitement and wholesome exercise.

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